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## Police: Slaying suspects plotted rest-stop heist

By Ashley Meeks / Las Cruces Sun-News  
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LAS CRUCES -- The three young men arrested in the slaying of a San Antonio student traveling to California were lying in wait to rob someone at a rest stop near El Paso, police documents said.

Adam Espinoza, 20, was approached after he pulled into the rest stop and was shot, according to an a police affidavit.

Jorge Murillo, 18, Javier Orozco, 16, and Irvin Ramirez, 15, all of Anthony, N.M., have been charged with first-degree murder, tampering with evidence and receiving stolen property. They remain jailed at Doña Ana County detention facilities.

Espinoza, who was on his way to Oceanside, Calif., was found in the trunk of his car on a dirt road off New Mexico Highway 404 on Jan. 10.

Espinoza pulled into the Anthony Welcome Center, just over the Texas border, the night he disappeared.

The rest stop advertises free wireless Internet, making it a popular place for travelers who want to check their e-mail or use their laptops.

The three teenagers -- two in the dark, near the picnic tables; one in the car, facing the exit in case they needed to make a quick getaway -- had been waiting for a half hour, with the express plans to "jack" the first person they saw, Orozco told police Monday.

Espinoza's car was the first that pulled in.

After watching it for a while, Ramirez told Orozco to check if the person inside was asleep and to whistle if he was. Orozco checked. Espinoza was asleep. He tapped on Espinoza's window to ask for a cigarette, Murillo told police.

When

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Espinoza rolled down the window, Ramirez walked up with a .22-caliber pistol-grip rifle.

Espinoza said he didn't have any money and if they wanted to rob him, "you're going to have to shoot me," Orozco told police.

Ramirez did -- once in the head and three times in the body, court documents state.

The whole confrontation took just 20 or 30 seconds, Murillo said.

When Espinoza did not arrive as expected, his family began to look for him.

Espinoza's body was found about three miles east of the rest stop.

Ashley Meeks may be reached at ameeks@lcsun-news.com; 575-541-5462.

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